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National Indian Health Board
**NATIONAL TRIBAL
COVID-19 RESPONSE**

910 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, D.C. 20003 | 202-507-4070 | www.nihb.org

The National Indian Health Board is committed to ensuring that the Tribes remain informed on COVID-19 and have the resources and assistance needed to respond to the pandemic. This newsletter will contain the latest resources, announcements and information on scheduled calls and webinars.

To view all of our resources, please be sure to visit our COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center at www.nihb.org/covid-19.

Thursday, March 18, 2021

www.nihb.org/covid-19

NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center

- Vaccine Information and Tribal Support Resources
- Community Health Tools
- Advocacy Tools
- Funding Opportunities and Technical Assistance Resources
- List of Member and Partner Organizations

Reminder: Written Comments Due Friday, March 19 for IHS Tribal Consultation on \$6 Billion funding from American Rescue Plan

The Indian Health Service (IHS) sent a Dear Tribal Leader Letter initiating Tribal Consultation to seek rapid input regarding the potential allocation of \$6 billion currently under consideration by Congress as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.



These funds are proposed to be available to support eligible expenses dating back to

- to find regionally-specific resources
- Upcoming Calls Webinars and Events

Keep Tribal Communities Safe Through Acts of Love

Visit NIHB's Act of Love Campaign Website to learn more, share your masked selfie with NIHB or order your own NIHB Act of Love mask today!



Learn more at <https://www.nihb.org/covid-19/act-of-love>



Marty Wafford, NIHB Member at Large and Oklahoma City Area Representative
Chairperson, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board

January 31, 2020, which is the date that the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared. If enacted by Congress, the funds will be provided on a one-time, non-recurring basis, and can only be used for the purposes outlined in the final bill.

Deadline for written comments to consultation@ihs.gov is Friday, March 19, 2021

Reminder: NIHB All Tribes Call on COVID-19 Vaccines, Friday, March 19

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is hosting an important

National Indian Health Board



All Tribes Call on COVID-19 Vaccines to open up discussion around challenges and best practices of the Covid vaccine rollout for Indian Health Service facilities and Tribal clinics. NIHB invites Tribal leaders, Tribal health administrators, Tribal public health staff, Tribal advocates, stakeholders, and citizens to share with their peers the experiences and best approaches to getting community members vaccinated over the last few months. Information gathered will inform NIHB's ongoing advocacy and awareness efforts. Click here to [learn more](#).

**Friday, March 19, 2021
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Eastern Time
[Register for the Webinar](#)**

Webinars and Events

US Dept. of Treasury Tribal Consultation on Tribal CRF Distributions, Thursday, March 18

The U.S. Department of Treasury will hold a Tribal Consultation Listening Session to discuss the allocations of amounts reserved for Tribal governments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by the CARES Act in 2020. The Listening Session will focus solely on the CARES Act and not on pending legislation.



Priority will be given to Tribal leaders in providing public comments. The agency respectfully requests that only Tribal leaders or their designees address Treasury with their comments. Others may join the teleconference in listen-only mode. If time permits and after all primary Tribal leaders have been recognized and provided the opportunity to speak, the teleconference may be opened to other stakeholders for public comments.

Treasury welcomes written public comments on this matter, which should be sent to tribal.consult@treasury.gov by 11:59 p.m. AKDT Friday, March 19, 2021, to be considered.

**Thursday, March 18, 2021
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Eastern Time**

[Register for the Webinar](#)

Please use Conference number: 2049303 and Passcode: 9392795 to register.
Please retain your confirmation and individual PIN number to access the call.

Infection Control Considerations for Dental Clinics Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Thursday, March 18

Please join the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) for a Tribal Infection Control Learning Community (TICLC) webinar: Infection Control Considerations for Dental Clinics Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. In collaboration with the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center (NTDSC) this webinar will provide an overview of



NIHB PROJECT FIRSTLINE:
**TRIBAL INFECTION
PREVENTION & CONTROL**
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

the best practices for dental settings and strategies for implementing infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to protect dental staff. The presentation will discuss current guidelines and the considerations needed to move toward safely re-opening dental practices in relation to COVID vaccination.

The learning community is focused on knowledge sharing and members are encouraged to share information and build relationships with each other. Please submit questions ahead of time to make sure the presenters can get to them. Come prepared to ask questions or share your own insights and experiences. This webinar is open to any interested person, but is likely most relevant to Tribal healthcare professionals, frontline workers, infection control officers and preventionists, and those who want to learn more about infection prevention and control measures for dental practices.

**Please note the title of this webinar has changed. Those previously registered do not have to do anything further.*

Thursday, March 18, 2021
2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern Time
[Register for the Webinar](#)

FEMA Tribal Consultation on Public Assistance COVID-19 Safe Opening and Operating Costs Interim Policy, Friday, March 19, 2021

Under the March 13, 2020, Coronavirus (COVID-19) nationwide emergency declaration and subsequent major disaster declarations for COVID-19, tribal, state, local, and territorial government entities and certain private nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for assistance under the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** (FEMA) Public Assistance Program.



FEMA

On January 21, 2021, the President issued the “**Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors’ Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States**,” which authorized FEMA to provide funding to Public Assistance applicants, including tribes, for the safe opening and operation of eligible facilities (e.g., eligible schools, child-care facilities, non-congregate shelters, domestic violence shelters, transit systems, and other eligible

applicants). Such assistance “may include funding for the provision of personal protective equipment and disinfecting services and supplies.”

FEMA is developing an interim policy, COVID-19 Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance, which defines the framework, policy details, and requirements for determining the eligibility of work and costs incurred to facilitate the safe opening and operation of eligible facilities. FEMA funding under this interim policy will be provided for costs incurred between January 21, 2021, to September 30, 2021 and will be provided at 100% Federal funding.

FEMA is seeking tribal input on the COVID-19 Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim), FEMA FP Policy 104-21-0003. Therefore, FEMA is hosting a teleconference tribal consultation session to receive input from tribal nations on this interim policy. This consultation session will take place on Friday, March 19, 2021, 3:00 to 4:00 ET.

During the event, FEMA staff will provide an overview of key provisions of the proposed interim policy, and the delivery process and procedures that will be utilized for implementation.

Questions and written comments may be directed to the Public Assistance Division at fema-recovery-pa-policy@fema.dhs.gov or through FEMA Regional Tribal Liaisons until Monday, March 24, 2021. Contact information for FEMA Tribal Liaisons may be found at www.fema.gov/about/contact.

Friday, March 19, 2021
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Eastern Time
Dial In: 800-458-4121; Confirmation Code 766-0603

Announcements

SAMHSA Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant

Application Deadline March 18

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY)



2021 [Rural Emergency Medical Services Training grants](#) to recruit and train emergency medical services (EMS) personnel in rural areas. Total available funding is \$5.5 million to 27 recipients for an award amount of up to \$200,000 for a one-year, no cost-sharing project. Rural EMS agencies operated by a local or Tribal government (fire-based and non-fire based) and non-profit EMS agencies are eligible to apply. [Learn more](#).

NIHB Accepting Applications for Infectious Disease Learning Community

Application Deadline March 22

The [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB) is working with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) to support emergency-based infrastructure for Indian Country. American Indians and Alaska Natives have increased vulnerability to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases due to a lack of resources, public health emergency planning and response infrastructure intended to control outbreaks, and the complexity around jurisdictions, as well as lack of understanding among partners working with Tribes. Through this initiative, NIHB will assist Tribes with public health capacity building and training activities that engage public health and healthcare professionals and vulnerable populations to increase their ability to prevent and control outbreaks. A vital activity to aid in building capacity is creating peer learning community networks. [Learn More and Apply](#).



ACF Releases Nearly \$10 Billion in COVID-19 Relief Funds to State, Territory, and Tribal CCDF Programs

On February 3, the [Administration for Children and Families](#) (ACF) awarded nearly \$10 billion in supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program funding to states, territories, and Tribes to address the needs of child care providers and families resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. These funds were made available under the recently enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116-260).



Funds can be used for a range of activities, including continuing payments and assistance to help child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures and to ensure that providers are able to remain open or reopen; providing child care assistance to essential workers without regard to income eligibility requirements; providing relief from copayments and tuition payments for families; delivering technical assistance to help child care providers implement practices in line with guidance from state, territory, and local health departments and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the safe provision of child care services; and supporting other allowable CCDF program activities. The Office of Child Care (OCC) will provide further guidance to states, territories, and Tribes, including information on reporting requirements for these funds, through the [OCC COVID-19 Resources page](#).

Update to the Medicaid and CHIP COVID-19 Response Frequently Asked Questions

On January 6, the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) updated its [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) for state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) and the agencies response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This is the eighth addition of the FAQs, meaning that new questions and answers were incorporated into the previously published FAQs responding to COVID-19. This version of FAQs covers topics like eligibility and enrollment, financing, CHIP, benefits and Managed Care. These FAQs intend to aid individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP to understand special exceptions, protections and changes that may pertain to them specifically during the continuation of the public health emergency. The [full list of Frequently Asked Questions](#) covers other areas such as information technology and emergency preparedness.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker

V-safe is a new after vaccination health tracker that allows people who receive a COVID-19 vaccine to quickly and directly tell CDC how they feel after vaccination. This smartphone-based tool uses text messaging and web surveys to provide you with personalized health check-ins and remind you when it is time for your 2nd dose of vaccine. Learn more about this new tool including information on how to register and complete a **v-safe** health check-in, information for healthcare providers, troubleshooting, FAQs, and contact information for technical support: [Click Here](#).



NIHB Tribal Infection Control Steering Committee

The [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB) has partnered with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) on [Project Firstline](#)—a comprehensive infection control program designed to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases in U.S. healthcare settings. With Project Firstline funding, NIHB is implementing a multi-pronged approach to providing infection prevention and control (IPC) training and technical assistance to Tribal health officials and Tribal health systems including a mentorship and training program for Tribal health professionals. To help guide the development of the training NIHB is creating a steering committee that will review and advise on program materials and provide advisory for developing and implementing the infection control projects.



For interest in joining the steering committee and other Project Firstline opportunities, contact Carmen Sanders at csanders@nihb.org.

HRSA Seeks Input from Entities Affected by 340B Changes



The **Health Resources and Services**

Administration (HRSA) is asking Tribes and other entities for input on the recent actions taken by pharmaceutical manufacturers to limit the access of covered entities to 340B drugs.

The 340B program allows discounts to certain safety-net health care providers on covered outpatient drugs from drug manufacturers. Manufacturers participating in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program agree to charge covered entities a price that will not exceed the ceiling price when selling covered outpatient drugs to covered entities. Covered entities are supposed to receive these drugs at reduced prices. However, the recent actions by the pharmaceutical industry threatens the availability of these drugs at the reduced price. The 340B Prime Vendor Program has a tool to assist covered entities in reporting these issues to HRSA. Follow the link to the tool **here**.

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**Visit the NIHB COVID-19 Tribal Resource Center at www.nihb.org/covid-19.
Reach the NIHB COVID-19 Response Team, contact CWheeler@nihb.org**

For media inquiries, contact April Hale at AHale@nihb.org



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